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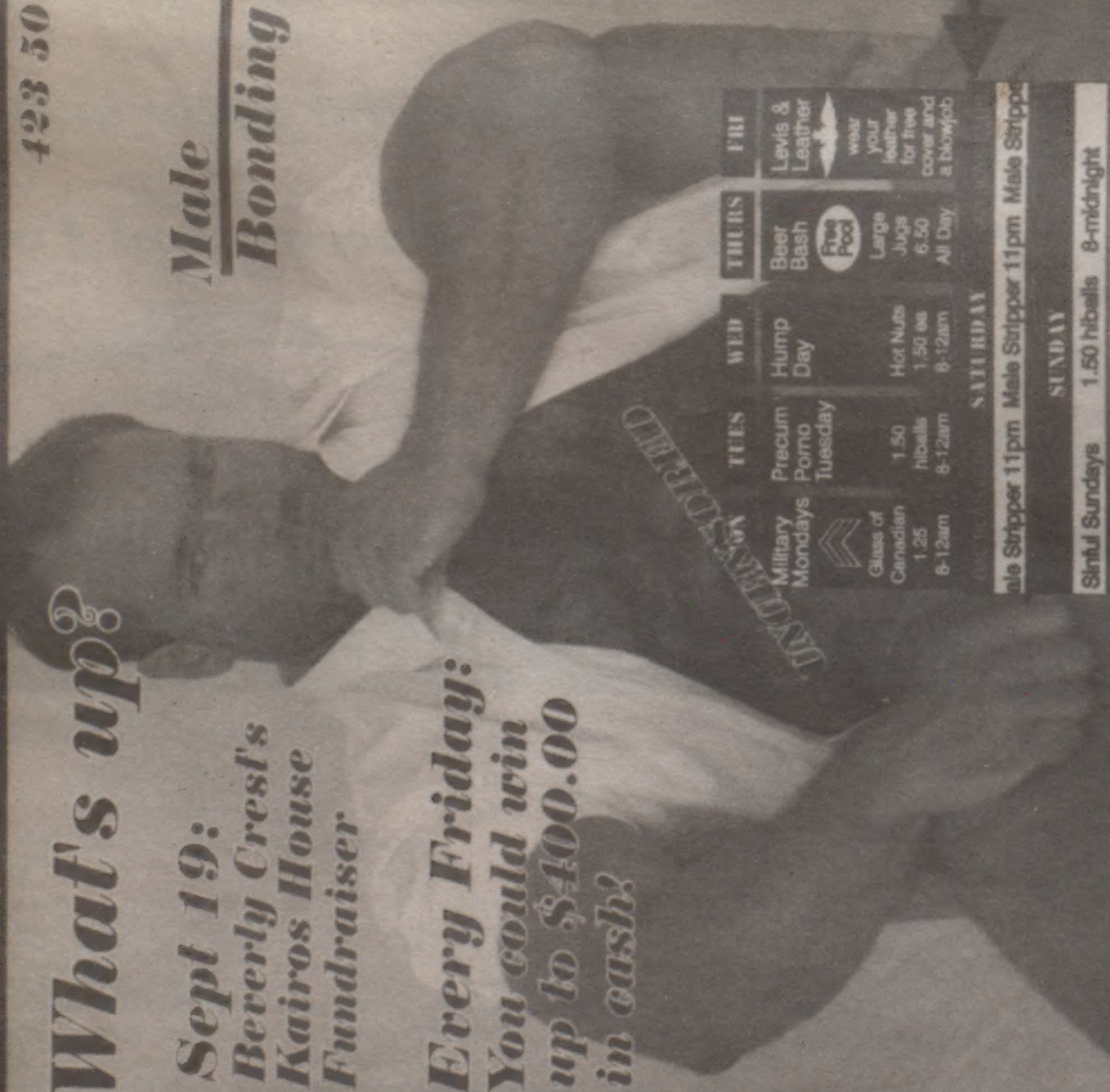
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Your Magazine of Choice

September 1998, Vol. 6 Number 1

Face to
Face with
Phair
Page 8



Politics
Pg's 6 & 8

Identity
Pg's 5, 9, 18

Fun
Pg's 5, 17, 21



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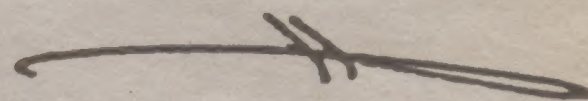
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Times .10
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 Vol. 6 Number 1
 September 1998
 Edmonton, Alberta

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FYI: News & Notes from the HIV/AIDS Battlefront

"Potent Antiviral Therapy Lowers Seminal HIV Level"

Reuters Health Information Services

A late-breaking abstract from the 12th World AIDS Conference in Geneva by Dr. Pietro I. Vernazza and other Swiss researchers indicates that treatment with potent antiretroviral agents can reduce the cell-free HIV RNA in semen by a significant amount. The scientists measured the seminal shedding rate in 85 HIV-positive men treated with triple combination therapy and 17 men who received reverse transcriptase inhibitors. They found that 2 percent of the treated men had detectable seminal plasma HIV RNA levels, while two-thirds of untreated HIV-positive controls had detectable levels. The authors note that while the treatment should be helpful in reducing the spread of HIV, patients receiving treatment can still be infectious.

"Aphios Receives NIAID Grant for HIV Vaccine Development"

Reuters Health Information Services

Aphios Corp. received a phase I SBIR grant from the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases for the development of an HIV vaccine. The company will investigate HIV vaccines that elicit immune responses from the introduction of recombinant proteins as well as through other methods. The therapy will involve SuperFluids CFI virus inactivation technique, which uses supercritical or near-critical fluids for

the inactivation of viruses.

"U.S. Government Collaborates on HIV Vaccine" Reuters

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases announced Tuesday that it would join the VaxGen HIV vaccine trial. The trial is the first large-scale test of an HIV vaccine in the United States, involving over 5,000 volunteers in 30 U.S. cities. VaxGen's vaccine uses the gp120 molecule to produce an immune response against HIV. NIAID is also working on variations of the vaccine.

"A Controlled Trial of Nonoxynol 9 Film to Reduce Male-to-Female Transmission of Sexually Transmitted Diseases" New England Journal of Medicine

To determine the efficacy of nonoxynol 9 as a microbicide, researchers from Family Health International and the Cameroon Ministry of Health studied nearly 1,300 sex workers in Cameroon. The participants were given either films with 70 mg of nonoxynol 9 or a placebo film. All women were also provided with condoms and instructed to have their partners use them; the participants reportedly used condoms 90 percent of the time. The authors found that nonoxynol 9 use did not reduce rates of new HIV, gonorrhea, or Chlamydia infections. There was a 6.7 case rate of HIV infection per 100 woman-years among those women who used the Spermicide, as compared to a 6.6 rate in the placebo group. Additionally, 42.2 cases of genital lesions were recorded per 100 woman-years among the nonoxynol 9 group, while a 33.5 case rate was observed for the placebo group. The

authors note that the nonoxynol 9 formulation may have not been optimal and the women may not have used it correctly or frequently enough. They recommend additional studies involving other formulations and with other microbicides.

"US: Gonorrhea Rate Still High in Young Adults" Fox News Online

The gonorrhea rate remains high among young adults, adolescents, and African-Americans despite an overall decline in the United States, according to a study by Dr. Kimberly K. Fox and colleagues at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The researchers report in the August issue of the journal Sexually Transmitted Diseases that the number of gonorrhea cases fell 71.3 percent between 1981 and 1996 to 124 cases per 100,000 people. The authors note that riskier behavior is not to blame for the difference, but that other factors, such as decreased access to health services, may be responsible for the gap. The researchers also observed a high rate among adolescents, particularly girls aged 15 to 19 years. The authors noted that gonorrhea may facilitate the spread of HIV and that the infection rate among young adults and adolescents may be problematic as a result.

"Designing HIV Vaccination Policies: Subtypes and Cross-Immunity" Interfaces

We developed and used mathematical models to assess vaccine programs for controlling two subtypes of HIV, both for developing countries where more than one subtype is present and for countries where only one subtype is present but other subtypes may invade. We began by formulating a model of

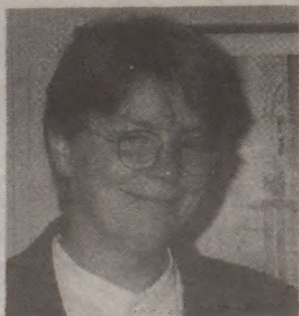
the intrinsic transmission dynamics of the two HIV subtypes and then extended this model to include the effects of a prophylactic vaccine that provides a degree of protection against infection by one subtype and vaccine-induced cross-immunity against infection by the second subtype. Using these models, we assessed the potential impact of using a prophylactic vaccine when one subtype of HIV is endemic and a second subtype is introduced into the community. In each case, mass vaccination could result in one of four possibilities: (1) both subtypes are eradicated, (2) the endemic subtype persists and the invading subtype is eradicated, (3) the endemic subtype is eradicated and the invading subtype persists, or (4) both subtypes coexist.

"Postexposure HIV Prophylaxis Use Planned by High-Risk Group" Reuters Health

A survey of 327 gay men indicates that approximately 26 percent plan to use postexposure prophylaxis (PEP) against HIV. Dr. Seth C. Kalichman of the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, found that the men who planned to use PEP tended to be younger, less educated, were more likely to use illegal drugs, have unprotected anal and oral receptive intercourse, and to have a history of injection drug use and a greater number of multiple anal intercourse partners. Three percent of the men said they had already used the treatment. Dr. Kalichman, who reported his findings in the August issue of the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, said that the survey is one of the first to investigate the behavioral characteristics of men who plan to use PEP against HIV.

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Being Alive

This article may be written by someone who lives in Los Angeles, certainly far away from Edmonton, but the reality of his words are all too true for those of us who have lived in Edmonton long enough to notice the changes. Although our small AIDS community is not making huge dents in the obituaries these days, it is not making much of a dent in the combination therapy and cocktail war either. Our small community is facing many cutbacks in funding and complacency by many in dealing with those of us who are left. May this article serve as an early warning signal for those of us who are still here and fighting for every breath of every day.

May this article serve as a wake up call for those who think the war on AIDS and HIV is over.

Being Alive, Los Angeles; I am worried, not just about the future of Being Alive, but about the future of people with HIV and people with AIDS. We all know what's happening: some people are really benefiting from new medications, feeling much more vital and thinking about a real future. Some people are not benefiting at all, because they are not aware of, or they are not being offered, or they are not being helped to use the new combination therapies. And some are seeing the new meds fail

them, often because they were successful in using the older monotherapies like AZT. What all three sets of us have in common is that we can't predict the future. The drugs may fail us all, but I think that is not likely. I think some of us (and this may include me, because I seem to be experiencing drug failure) will get old-fashioned AIDS and die. It is clear that the drugs work best in treatment-naive people who have the order and support in their lives to adhere to fairly strict regimens, taking our many pills by the clock.

Some of the powers that be have already accepted as fact the prospect of survival only for the fittest. The fittest will get healthier, or never get unhealthy, go to work and be off the government's hands. The homeless, the substance users, the single mothers with kids who are already viewed as "welfare Queens" will not be out front in this Darwinian struggle. And of course, the overwhelming majority of AIDS cases (96% of all AIDS cases are in the Third World) will never get a chance at all.

I am worried also because here, in L.A., people with HIV/AIDS don't seem to place much value in helping each other out through support groups or even social events. Recall the famous New York Times Magazine article "When Plagues End" by that jumped up Thatcherite from England, Andrew Sullivan? He told about a circuit party where a buff muscleboy with KS was dancing-like everybody else-with his shirt off. Other partyers came up to him and told him to put his shirt back on: "he was spoiling it for the rest of us."

I'm afraid that those of us who are healthy asymptomatic people with HIV will start to look down on and avoid those of us who get sick with AIDS as "failures" and "losers."

APLA reports its donor base is down and that they have to downsize. (Whatever you think of APLA I can assure you, since I sit on the committees that dole out government money, that APLA pays for most of its services through private fundraising.) Being Alive reports its volunteer base is down, as do most other AIDS organizations. And the Ryan White CARE Act and other government funding sources (which supply 100% of the funds of many AIDS organizations) are insisting on results and telling everyone that services like case management, psychosocial support-actually everything-must be tied to the delivery of Medical treatment. In this atmosphere of fewer donations, fewer volunteers, and fewer government dollars, what should Being Alive do?

Being Alive is having some trouble paying for its expensive garden spot. We all love the place, but it costs a great deal. And government funds don't really pay for gardening. Being Alive has always fought the government edict that we keep data on all clients; in fact, we don't see people as "clients," but rather as brothers and sisters and lovers or comrades or fellow-sufferers or friends. The Being Alive socials have experienced some tensions over the years: first was the moralist controversy over whether socials should have beer and wine; now there is a donation requested at the door to keep out disruptive people (meaning who, the druggies or the homeless?). It may just be that the needs of people with AIDS and people with HIV who don't have a lot of support are things that Being Alive cannot supply, as it is presently constituted. Being Alive is not a homeless service organization, and it is not a drug treatment center. It is, and always was, just an aggregation of motivated people with HIV and AIDS who wanted to help each other out. Much of that help took the form of sharing experience and providing information about treatments. Today, most of

those who would seek information have more than enough; hence, very few people attend medical updates or read treatment newsletters. Those who need the information most are not getting it from Being Alive, although I think a lot of women get it from Women Alive.

Are you, dear reader, a PWA like me who is pinning hopes on combination therapies and trying to prepare for a longer future?

Are you saddled with debts, worried about staying or getting on disability, revising your thinking about long-term relationships vs. (very) short-term sex? Are you recently-positive and surprised, ashamed and more likely to rely on friends than a bunch of strangers who might ask why you got infected "when you should have known better"? Are you feeling great, going to the gym, taking risks that might lead to greater satisfaction?

Are you watching the parade go by and getting sicker but nobody is noticing you?

Are you an older man who thought he would die, and now have to face loneliness and being a wallflower at the dance? Are you someone who figured he would die and therefore didn't care about safe sex, but now you think maybe you want to re-evaluate, thinking that in the long-term, we need to protect each other? Maybe. Maybe not. But one way or another, things are hard for people with HIV and people with AIDS and for people without.

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Capital City Politics



Cars Cost Less For Conservatives

By Laurie Blakeman -
Edmonton Liberal MLA

When we look at the big picture, the actual costs taxpayers pay for luxury cars for cabinet ministers, deputy ministers, committee chairs and bureaucrats is not really a lot. What is at issue is the attitude that the Conservatives have regarding this \$1.8 million fleet.

No one is saying that cabinet ministers should not have cars – quite the opposite. Many companies provide company vehicles for employees, but let's take a look at some of this abuse.

If a minister wants a car that exceeds the limit, all he or she has to do is write the treasurer and request that the limit be raised. After all, that's what ex-transportation minister Steve West did. Yes, you read that correctly. Steve West, the man known for slashing and burning departments and cutting back on staff is the same man who drives a \$30,000 4WD Silverado.

One Conservative MLA who is not even a cabinet minister but a chair of a standing policy committee drives a \$35,000 4WD Cherokee Laredo. Conservatives are not only driving luxury cars but they are also billing taxpayers for other luxuries like trailer hitches, box liners and automatic starters. Cabinet ministers are also able to buy back these cars at the black book cost not available to the general public. Pretty good deal. Why the excess? Two Liberal MLAs are entitled to these luxury cars, yet no Liberal MLA has ever accepted one.

In the spring my colleague, Colleen Soetaert, requested a cost-benefit analysis from the minister which would show that it would be

cheaper to pay for gas and mileage and yet Conservatives continue to maintain the executive fleet at a higher cost to you – the taxpayer. And Conservative MLAs get to purchase their vehicle at the black book price after they leave office. Have you, gentle reader, ever been able to purchase a used car at the black book price? NO! Yet cabinet ministers get to.

Is this a big budget item in government spending? No. Is this an issue of fairness and accountability? You bet.

If you would like more information about this or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact the Constituency office at 10042-116 Street, Edmonton, AB T5K 1V6 Phone: 414-0743, Fax: 414-0772 or e-mail: blakeman@oanet.com



Klein Government Shortchanges Edmonton Infrastructure

By Colleen Soetaert, MLA

Infrastructure development and gambling simply don't mix, says Soetaert

When The City of Edmonton will receive only 23% of the \$130 million in one-time 1998/99 funding for municipal transportation infrastructure being provided by the Klein government through the Lottery Fund, Alberta Liberal Transportation Critic Colleen Soetaert revealed today.

The \$130 million is expected to be allocated among the following infrastructure programs: transit capital assistance, rural transportation grants,

streets improvement program, Metis Settlement access roads, basic capital grants, secondary highways, and the North/South Trade Corridor.

Alberta's 16 cities are expected to receive nearly 64% of the \$130 million in funding. Edmonton will receive 35% of the funding to cities. By comparison, Calgary will receive nearly 55% of funding being allocated to cities.

"The Klein government's infrastructure strategy is a transparent and desperate political ploy to tie gambling profits to local infrastructure development in order to preserve its addiction to VLT revenues," said Soetaert. "Now it has compounded the shortsightedness by failing to ensure that the City of Edmonton receives fair and equitable treatment based on a formula that takes population, assessment growth and infrastructure needs over the medium-term into account."

Soetaert noted that in 1996/97, Calgary generated \$112 million in VLT profits for the government. In that same fiscal year Edmonton, Sherwood Park and St. Albert generated \$113 million in government VLT profits. "Since the two regions contributed equally into the VLT pot, it would seem only fair that the two regions benefit equally when a portion of these profits are returned," said Soetaert.

Soetaert has learned that under the province's three year infrastructure plan (1999/00-2001/02), the City of Edmonton will receive 40% less in top-up funding per year than Calgary, once North/South Trade Corridor funding is netted out. This will occur despite the fact that Edmonton's population is only 22% less than Calgary's.

"An infrastructure plan should be based on equity, stability and predictability. Regrettably the Klein government has opted for the politics of gambling,"

said Soetaert. "The treatment of Edmonton in infrastructure funding allocations shows that the Klein government is playing politics on infrastructure and gambling away the future competitiveness of this province."

Soetaert reiterated that Alberta Liberals believe that a realistic infrastructure plan begins with a formal declaration of roles and responsibilities between the provincial and local governments and the creation of a binding three-year framework so that local authorities can plan responsibly as they determine infrastructure requirements.

For more information contact:
Colleen Soetaert, MLA
Alberta Liberal Transportation Critic



Me, Vote.... Why bother?

By Murray Billett
GALA Director

After all, it is only one ballot and what difference can that possibly make. How can my vote change anything? Is this the way you feel when it comes time to cast your ballot in a municipal, provincial or federal election? Allow me to share a short story of a campaign for a city councilor that I worked on back in the late 70's. I was the one that was completely and totally responsible for getting him elected! Now you are probably thinking I must be awfully full of myself. Well not exactly. You see, each of the other 3,292 people who voted for this candidate felt exactly the same way. The only other candidate received 3,291 votes. A true story that illustrates all too clearly just what difference one vote can make. There are a couple of other local politicians that came close to losing in their last elections. Councilor Michael Phair and our federal Justice Minister, the Honourable Anne McLellan MP both barely were elected by a few hundred ballots in their respective last elections.

The most important reason for you to ensure that you cast your ballot is the mere ability in a democracy to vote. Think about the tens of thousands of people who, historically speaking, have been killed or lost their lives fighting for democracy and right to vote for, and elect, an individual of their choice. I am incredibly proud knowing that everyone of us is equal in our ability to make a political choice on election day to direct and control our city, province and country.

Please understand and believe in your ability to make a difference. The Civic Election is Oct. 19, Get out and VOTE and if I may be so bold.... Re-Elect Michael Phair in Ward 4.

When it comes time to vote in the next Provincial election... trust me there will be more to say. I will start now by saying "I am so angry, I know now who I will not vote for!"

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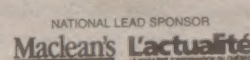
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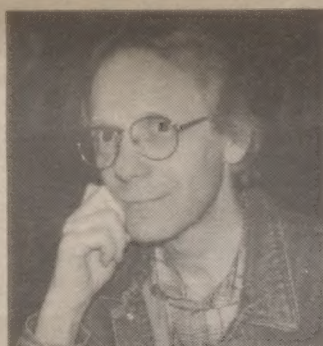


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From the Editor

by Dennis Cambly

As long as your dreams remain larger than you, Your thoughts will follow into the realm of the truth...

d. a. lawrence

I always wanted to be a firefighter, then as time passed, I wanted to do police work, as a detective. When that did not happen I figured I would be a jet fighter pilot. Just dating myself somewhat by mentioning that I really loved those CF-100's as they crashed through the sky overhead. I was kind of trying to find a way to please my Father and myself. By defending my country I knew that he would

enjoy that more than anything else, since he loved to tell those war stories. Alas, I could not please him, because, the simple truth was that he knew there was something "different" about me. There was something about me that could not be loved. How the hell I ever drew this lot in life I will never know. It was a matter of both of us trying to do the "right thing".

This life is sometimes filled with lonely days and lonely nights. Shattered dreams of being that famous radio personality that could have been the "right thing". Short lived those nine years in that industry when some fucking queer dropped the bombshell on the "born again" morning man that I was a homosexual. Yes, the truth is sometimes very strange. They took sides and decided my fate: 9 votes for me and 11 against. My career in broadcasting was toasted with a dirty little joke. Oh yes, there were some good years with my former two partners that lasted over ten years. One is dead of AIDS and the other is still finding his way out of a bottle of Johnny

Walker. We must have been doing the right thing all those years. And Dad, that took until the final years of his life before we "really" talked to each other and found we had so much common ground. We talked about doing the "right thing" in those months before his death. "Should have done this much sooner Son; he said. He even picked up a copy of Times .10 and said; "you always loved to write, nice to see your doing something you enjoy".

After my Father passed away my Mother asked me if it was "something" they did that made me gay. "Yes, Mother, I figure you and Dad had a quite a celebration on your Anniversary, as it was nine months later that I was born". She blushed, as we had never talked about these "things" before that day. "Your Dad really loved you and so do I". She told me it was about the letter I wrote to him and said it was the "right thing" to do, because it showed you had love in your heart for him. "You didn't wait until there was just too much pain to do the "right thing".

Life changes and so do we with every passing day. If you believe in your heart

that you really can do the right thing then do it now. You do not have to wait for many long years to pass and watch the pain and inner turmoil grow before you act upon your heart. Before the lie becomes a legend and turns itself into some mystical being, sit down and write that letter. You do not need to act like the dirty little queer or the selfish politician who needs the Supreme Court of Canada to tell him to do the "right thing".

Finally, do not pretend to be a firefighter unless you intend to risk your life while putting out fires. Do not pretend to be a police officer unless you enjoy being outnumbered 1000 to 1. Never go near a jet fighter plane unless you intend to fight and possibly die for a cause. And finally, do not pretend to be making waves when you are only drooling all over yourself.

When Jesus was dying on the cross do you think he said: "Father, am I doing the right thing?"

Face to Face with Michael Phair

An Interview by
Associate Editor
Heather Marshall

As if to explain the piles of documents, pillars of phone messages and numerous file cabinets, the sign on Michael Phair's office door advises that "A Creative Mess is better than Tidy Idleness." Here in City Hall, where Phair has spent the past six years, the new office furnishings, svelte Administrative Assistants and the polished brass of municipal bureaucracy seem to have left him untouched. Michael Phair, creative and far from idle, has managed to remain focused on his task as counsellor: to represent the people living in Ward 4.

Born in Wisconsin and educated near Chicago, Phair came to Canada about twenty years ago to accept a job as a teacher at Mount Royal College in Calgary. "I didn't really expect to get that job," he says, "but when it was offered to me, I didn't hesitate to accept. It was a bit of an adventure." Phair later moved to Edmonton where he worked for the Department of Education. Now twenty years later, Phair's "adventures" take place at City Hall under the watchful eye of the media and the public.

"Ten or twelve years ago I never would have dreamed that I would go into elected politics; I was out as a gay man and I just assumed that would exclude me from being elected," says Phair.

However, in March of 1992 after being involved for a number of years with the Edmonton AIDS Network, chairing the Edmonton Social Planning Council and working on Jan Reimer's 1991 election campaign, Phair sat down with a group of friends one evening to talk about the possibilities of running for municipal office. With the encouragement and support of close friends, Jan Reimer and others close to her, he decided to take the plunge. Surprising to Phair was the assurance from those around him that being gay would not hamper his chances of being elected.

As a member of GALA, the AIDS Network and other community organizations, Phair was known to the public as an out gay man, and was aware that his being gay would certainly be brought up by the media, and of course it was. Despite his concerns, Phair was elected to represent Ward 4, the area in which he lives. "Ward 4 has a large gay/

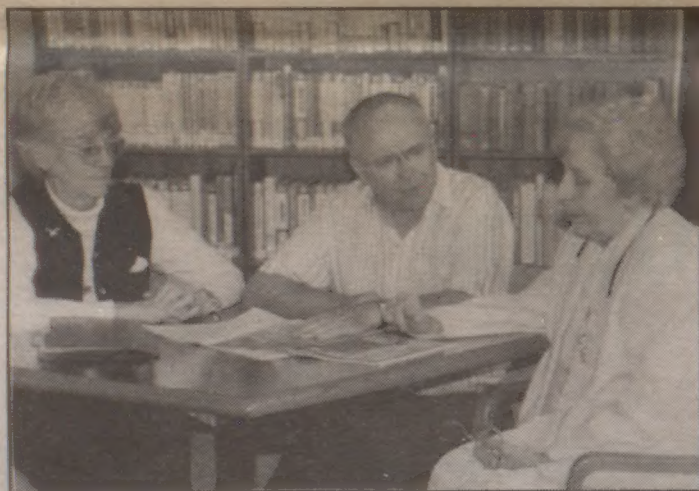
lesbian population, and they probably did vote for me because I am gay. It certainly made a difference - people who never voted before did so because they wanted to have a gay man represent them," says Phair.

"The second time was tougher. You're running on your record, on whether or not people approve of what you have done or not," claims Phair. "What was interesting though was that my being gay was brought up more the second time around, particularly at the public forums." It was not often a positive experience.

Looking back over the achievements of the past six years as an elected representative, Phair recognizes a number of areas where there have been positive changes for the gay lesbian community. He is also quick to note that these accomplishments are not his alone.

"The latest achievement here at City Hall is that we have just recently, about six weeks ago, extended benefits to partners of gays and lesbians. We were certainly helped by the Vriend decision; we could now use moral persuasion and the knowledge that we could go to the Alberta Human Rights Commission if the Council refused," says Phair. Phair's presence on Council, combined with the willingness of a few City employees, has made same-gender benefits a reality.

In the Spring of this year, City Hall was host



to the GALA Chorus event. Two or three years ago this would not have been possible. Phair asserts that it was not his presence alone that opened the Council to hosting the festivities, but that it was also the hard work of a number of others who made it possible. Without the presence of Michael Phair, however, it would be very easy for Council to turn down such requests.

As a result of Phair's work with the City, the Police Liaison Program has a seriousness and accountability, grant applications to the City by gay and lesbian organizations are given serious consideration and are often accepted, and the City Employee Standards include gays and lesbians in their non-discrimination policies.

The emotion of the Delwyn Vriend Case is still with Phair as he relives those days of hatred and fear expressed by some Albertans. "There were a couple of things that really touched me," he says. "Three or four of my close gay and lesbian friends told me that they had never seen or experienced such hatred and ugliness, and they were afraid. I

was totally taken aback by that. I was not surprised at the attacks on me, I am a public figure. I didn't like it, but I expected it. But I was totally shocked that others were experiencing this ugliness."

The second thing that moved Phair was the extremity of the attacks on him personally.

"In the day or two after the decisions, I got a number of vicious, hateful calls. Things like 'you should be shot' and 'God shouldn't have made you.' Things turned from opinion to hatred and personal threat. When I put these two experiences together, it was very scary." Certainly these views did not

represent what most people thought at the time, but other voices couldn't come forward.

Phair sees those days of the Vriend verdict as a catalyst for a number of people. "Everyone had a story to tell and an opinion to express. Some of my friends, who I never would have expected, came out in the workplace, and families [from outside Alberta] were phoning people here wanting to know what was going on. It really was a galvanizing moment."

As the Municipal election fast approaches, Phair is looking forward to getting out and talking to people as he hits the campaign trail. He has three main points he wants to push this next term: ensuring that the democratic

process is upheld with open public debate on issues (there has been very little of that in the past two years), working on financial stability for the City by working for additional grants from Federal and Provincial governments, and getting the City to have a proclamation on Gay Pride Day and provide support for youth dealing



with their sexual orientation.

Finally, what does Michael Phair do for fun and relaxation? Between laughs, Phair says "I try to get out to movies, plays and musical events, dinner with friends. I read when I can. It's hard to find time to do much of that!"

Any final words? Ever the politician, Phair replies "Remember to vote on October 19th! Get out and mark your ballot."

Gay and Gay Friendly Business Association Meeting

Tuesday, September 15

Time: 8 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.

The Garage Burger Bar & Grill

Address: 10244-106 Street

Contact: Jim at 423-5014 or

Dennis Cambly 452-7743

Agenda;

Minutes from last meeting

Meet other business members

New Business concerns

Socializing

Remember to bring your business cards or information on your business to give to everyone attending.

Coming Out...Stories

Pass the Cranberry Sauce

It was in February of 1989, that I decided to finally take the steps in accepting my sexuality. I knew for many years that I was gay, but I never knew what steps to take from that point.

Unfortunately, this revelation didn't come with an instruction manual. (People know how I am with reading books, anyway. Halfway through it I would have gotten restless and decide to "wing it".) What a scary thought. "Hey lets just jump out there and see what happens!" At THAT point in my life, I would not have dared.

I was living at home still and having to deal with a controlling parental situation. (Okay so it was abusive...but that's another web page.) I couldn't bring home any gay literature, as my room was searched daily, for god knows what, by my neurotic mother. And if anything with the word "Gay" on it had been found, it would have been an ugly situation.

I hadn't expressed my true feelings to any of my friends, so as far as I knew then, I had no outside support. Later I realized that I was wrong. I still have those very friends today, and they continue to be a big part of my life. (I think that they're just waiting to be a part of a lesbian wedding. *giggle*) At first I called a local Lesbian Information number. It was a recorded message so I was okay with just that step. I just had to listen and not have to say a word. (This was good! Listen to the lesbian...listen to the lesbian. Yep this WORKED!) But after weeks of listening to the same monotone voice, I knew that I needed more. I toyed with the idea of calling the local Gay and Lesbian Community Center, but I was so paranoid

of being discovered that it took me a LONG time to get the guts to do it. Why it took me so long was nothing but a humorous mess of excuses. (The phone might have been tapped...or they just were SAYING they were a Gay and Lesbian Community Center, but they were REALLY these people that find out where you live, and announce it to your family at Thanksgiving, "Guess what? SOMEBODY here is a LESBIAN! Could you please pass the cranberry sauce?") It's amazing what you can come up with when your faced with the issue of contacting other people that are just like yourself for the very first time.

An example of what I do not recommend anyone doing: Nervous Individual Questioning Their Sexuality: [dialing gay and lesbian community center]

*ring**ring**ring*

Hard Working Volunteer Giving Up Free time to help others: Hello? Dallas Gay ..

*click**dial-tone*

N.I.Q.T.S: [dialing gay and lesbian community center, again] *ring**ring**ring*

H.W.V.G.U.F.T.H.O.: Hello? Dallas Gay and Lesbian Al ...

*click**dial-tone*

See the pattern here people? Don't do this to these wonderful individuals! Just talk. Ask questions. They are there to lend support. And they won't bite...well unless you're into that kind of thing. Needless to say, I am glad that I made the call, and didn't hang up.... well okay so MAYBE I did a couple of times. But I DID eventually speak to someone and they helped me get involved with an excellent gay and lesbian youth organization. I went to weekly meetings and soon became an officer. We held charity events, garage sales, marched in gay pride parades, and even held the obligatory BAKE SALE. (Now what organization hasn't had the honor of pushing cookies for money??) It was a great learning and growing experience that gave me the courage to face myself and to be honest about my sexuality. It helped me face the questions that I would endure, when coming out to my parents. (Well they actually found my phone list for the youth group and put two and two together. OOOOPS! I mean what parent wouldn't think that something was up after finding a large piece of paper titled, "Dallas Gay and Lesbian Young Adults", with their kids phone number on it??? That's not hard to figure out, ya know? But eventually I had to face them and answer about it.) But needless to say I survived it, and because of my

honesty, I have a closer bond with my father than I have ever had. He supports me and is happy to see me get involved with the community. Who knows, if my mom were alive she may be proud of me too. (OKAY so THAT'S pushing it.)

Coming Out Boring

When I was first coming out, I read voraciously about gay life. I read gay novels and short stories, non-fiction, outdated psychology books, and of course, coming out manuals. I've been out for more than 10 years, but coming out manuals haven't progressed much in that time. And I worry that kids who read those books are just going to get recruited into the same boring mainstream gay lifestyle.

Coming out is partially about accepting yourself, partly about dealing with straight family and friends, and partially about finding a part of queer culture to get hooked up to. I'm most concerned about that last part, but the other parts aren't perfect, either.

At the "War on Fat" workshop at the Dirtybird Queercore festival, someone told me about a coming out manual that actually advises that you lose weight before you try coming out. Talk about reinforcing the looksist standards of gay culture! I think that coming out manuals generally go too easy on families. Sarah Schulman's novel "Rat Bohemia" presents a harsher, but true-to-life example of what queers can expect from their families. And how about Team Dresch's song "Uncle Phranc": "My mom says she loves me, but I don't think it's love cause she only loves me when I act just like she does and that's emotional blackmail."

I punked out before I came out. I think that probably I became a punk because I was queer. I was a misfit, therefore I became a punk, but I found that I didn't totally fit into that, so I came out, and found that I didn't fit into mainstream gaydom because I was a punk. I think that perhaps people who come out into mainstream gay culture first are less likely to later turn to punk. I always like to quiz gay punks about which came first for them, and I'm often surprised to find my theory wrong — many people came out before turning to punk.

Reading those coming out books you, aren't going to hear about queer zines, queer punk music, or basically anything more hip than Romonovsky and Phillips or Holly Near.

So what's the solution? Make sure those queer zines, records, and web pages are out there and visible, proving to kids that there's a future besides rainbow flags, disco, and going to the gym. ...Larry-bob

Harold Smith

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The Truth is Out There

→A tourist from Albegestan goes on his first overseas trip. Upon arriving, he is visibly puzzled filling his visa application. The border official looks over his shoulder, and sees the tourist trying to write 'Twice a week' into the small space labeled 'SEX'.

The official explains: "No, no, no. That is not what we mean by this question. We are asking 'Male' or 'Female'".

"Doesn't matter", the tourist answers.

→A man was walking on the sidewalk and noticed up ahead that Little Johnny was wearing a red fire man's hat and sitting in a red wagon. It appeared that the wagon was being pulled slowly by a large Labrador Retriever. When he got closer to the lad, he noticed that Johnny had a rope tied around the dog's testicles, which probably accounted for why the dog was walking so gingerly.

Smiling, he spoke to the little boy, "That's really a nice fire engine you have there son. But I'll bet the dog would pull you faster if you tied that rope around his neck."

"Yeah," Johnny replied, "but then I

wouldn't have a siren."

→There were two lovers, who were really into spiritualism and reincarnation. They vowed that if either died, the other one remaining would try to contact the partner in the other world exactly 30 days after their death.

Unfortunately, a few weeks later, the young man died in a car wreck. True to his word, his lover tried to contact him in the spirit world exactly 30 days later.

At the seance, he called out, "Andy, Andy, this is Mike. Do you hear me?" A ghostly voice answered him, "Yes Mike, this is Andy. I can hear you." Mike tearfully asked, "Oh Andy, what is it like where you are?" "It's beautiful. There are azure skies, a soft breeze, sunshine most of the time."

"What do you do all day?" asked Mike. "Well, we get up before sunrise, eat some good breakfast, and there's nothing but making love until noon. After lunch, we nap until two and then make love again until about five. After dinner, we go at it again until we fall asleep about 11 p.m."

Mike was somewhat taken aback. "Is that what heaven really is like?" "Heaven? I'm not in heaven" "Well, then, where are you?" "I'm a rabbit in Arizona."

→Late one night at the insane asylum

one inmate shouted, "I am Napoleon!" Another one said, "How do you know?"

The first inmate said, "God told me!"

Just then, a voice from another room shouted, "I did NOT!!!"

→In Calgary a yuppie opened the door of his BMW, when suddenly a car came along and hit the door, ripping it off completely. When the police arrived at the scene, the yuppie was complaining bitterly about the damage to his precious BMW.

"Officer, look what they've done to my Beeeemer!!!", he whined.

"You yuppies are so materialistic, you make me sick!!!", retorted the officer. "You're so worried about your stupid BMW, that you didn't even notice that your left arm was ripped off!!!"

"Oh my gaaawd," replied the yuppie, finally noticing the bloody left shoulder where his arm once was, "Where's my Rolex?!!!!!"

→A bartender is sitting behind the bar on a typical day, when the door bursts open and in come four exuberant blondes. They come up to the bar, order five bottles of champagne and ten glasses, take their order over and sit down at a large table. The corks are popped, the glasses are filled and they begin toasting

and chanting, "51 days, 51 days, 51 days!"

Soon, three more blondes arrive, take up their drinks and the chanting grows. "51 days, 51 days, 51 days!" Two more blondes show up and soon their voices are joined in raising the roof. "51 days, 51 days, 51 days!" Finally, the tenth blonde comes in with a picture under her arm. She walks over to the table, sets the picture in the middle and the table erupts even more loudly in chant. Up jump the others, they begin dancing around the table, exchanging high-fives, all the while chanting "51 days, 51 days, 51 days!"

The bartender can't contain his curiosity any longer, so he walks over to the table. There in the center is a beautifully framed child's jigsaw puzzle of the Cookie Monster. When the frenzy dies down a little bit, the bartender asks one of the blondes, "What's all the chanting and celebration about?"

The blonde, who brought in the picture pipes in, "Everyone thinks that blondes are dumb and they make fun of us. So, we decided to set the record straight. Ten of us got together, bought that puzzle and put it together. The side of the box said 2-4 years, but we put it together in just 51 days!"

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Greater Edmonton Gay Community Support Groups and Services

AIDS Network of Edmonton Society

AIDS Network of Edmonton works cooperatively with all those organizations in Alberta and across the country who are working to help limit the spread of HIV infection. Today the network provides Education, Info-Line, Speakers Bureau, Resource material and various Support groups. If you wish to know more about the Network, call 488-5742. E-mail: anoes@connect.ab.ca.

Affirm United

(United Church of Canada) meets at McDougall United Church 10025 101 St. Last Saturday of the month, at 7:30 - 9:30 PM For more info, call: Larry at 429-4269 or Phyllis at 434-4808

Alcoholics Anonymous

A A is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Call 424-5900 for times and places of Gay and Lesbian meetings.

AXIOS - Edmonton

AXIOS is an international organization of Eastern Orthodox and Eastern-Rite Catholic Gay and Lesbian Christians. Our mandate is to promote a greater understanding of human sexuality and spirituality within the Eastern Christian tradition. The AXIOS monthly newsletter is available via the Internet. Contact Dushan at 454-8449 for more information.

Bare Naked Boys Club of Edmonton - BNBCE

A naturist group of gay men in Edmonton interested in social nudity. This is not a sex club. Men of all ages welcome. Call Fred at 469-7231 for information.

The B.E.A.R.S. of Edmonton

(A group for hairy men and their admirers) meet the last Friday of the month 9:00pm - 11:00pm at Boots n' Saddle. Or write us at #47, 10024-82nd Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6E 1Z3. Our email address is bears@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Brethren Mennonite Council

For Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual concerns. This is a support community for gay, lesbian and bisexual Mennonites and friends. Contact Tim at 434-5360 or Garrett at 423-1725 or e-mail: garrett.epp@ualberta.ca.

Dignity Edmonton

This Edmonton chapter is a support community for gay and lesbian Catholics and friends. Contact Bernard at 451-1794 or Dennis at 482-6845

Edmonton Prime Timers

Prime Timers is a social fraternity for older gay and bisexual men and their friends. The purpose of Prime Timers is to provide an opportunity for mature gay men to fraternize and join together in a program of social activities. Meetings held 2nd Sunday each month at the Unitarian Church at 3:00 p.m. If you would like more information address correspondence to Chairman, Edmonton Prime Timers, Suite 1093, 11444 - 119 Street, Edmonton, T5G 2X6. Contact Peter at 426-7019. E-mail: mercury@planet.eon.net

Edmonton Vocal Minority

A mixed voice chorus joining together in a common love of music and a desire to build a greater spirit of unity and pride in the lesbian community. If you are interested in singing with EVM or working in the areas of promotion, staging or front of house concerts and events, please contact us at P. O. Box

12091, Main Post Office, T5J 3L2 or telephone 988-4620. E-mail: evm@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Feather of Hope Aboriginal AIDS Prevention Society

The Feather of Hope was founded on a need to provide AIDS education and support to Native People in Alberta. Through education and the development of communities in partnership, it is hoped that the spread of AIDS will be lessened. We offer training and education programs, as well as support through traditional ways. Volunteers are very important to us, if you can help, or would simply like some more information call 488-5773

Free-To-Be Volleyball Association

The Association aspires to provide opportunities for our community to play volleyball in a supportive atmosphere. There are 5 leagues: 1) Recreational - Contact Rick at 497-7585; 2) Beach (summer) - Contact Rick at 497-7585; 3) Competitive - contact Andrew at 435-9379; 4) Tournament - Contact Andrew at 435-9379; 5) City - Contact Andrew at 435-9379. Email: andrewschuster@hotmail.com

Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton (G.L.C.C.E.)

The centre contributes to the well-being of Edmonton's gay, lesbian and bisexual community through informational, social support services and its social information line. The services offered by the centre include an information line, telephone referrals, library, drop-in peer support counselling and social activities arranged and sponsored by the centre. Further information is available at 488-3234. E-Mail glcce@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Gay Men's Wednesday Coffee Evenings.

At 7:30 p.m. Breadstick Cafe at 10159 - 82 Avenue. This group fosters a safe, comfortable environment for all its participants. At the same time, it discourages attendance solely for sexual relations. Join us to relax, share experiences, and establish friendships. There is no age limit. Tel: 403-463-2098 (Graham) E-mail: gwatts@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Gay Men's Outreach Crew (G.M.O.C.)

G.M.O.C. is a peer education initiative for gay/bisexual men that works toward: preventing the spread of HIV amongst men who have sex with men, advocating for healthy lifestyle choices, and addressing social and health concerns by fostering self-esteem and gay positive attitudes. For information on G.M.O.C. workshops and other activities, call our information and contact line at 944-1394 ext 4662.

Gay and Lesbian Awareness (G.A.L.A.)

We are an organization interested in human rights issues especially related to sexual orientation and changing Federal and Provincial legislation. We are always interested in new members. If you are interested call Murray Billet at 482-7421

Illusions Social Club

A social club for Crossdressers, Transsexuals and their supporters. We hold two socials each month, one on the second Thursday and one on the third Saturday. For more information write to Illusions Social Club Club Please change the mailing address to Box 1852, Edmonton, T5K 2P2; or phone either 488-3234 (GLCCE) on Tuesday evenings to talk to someone person to person.

Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose

The mission of the Court is to raise funds for charities and other organizations which either provide direct services to gay and lesbian individuals. Meetings of the Society are held monthly on the last Sunday. For meeting location and time please see the Court notice boards in Boots or the Roost Our website is at: <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/5904>

Interfaith Association on AIDS Edmonton

The purpose of this association is to sensitize local faith communities and their leaders to the unique spiritual and emotional needs of those infected by HIV/AIDS. The following faith communities are included: Anglican, Baha'i, Baptist, Beth Shalom Synagogue, Lutheran, Metropolitan Community Church, Roman Catholic, Temple Beth Ora, Ukrainian

Catholic, Unitarian and United Churches. Phone 448-1768 for more information. Email: anoes@connect.ab.ca.

Lambda Christian Community Church

We are a non-denominational evangelical Christian church. One of our primary goals is to provide a safe and affirming environment for all who desire to worship God. Lambda Community Church, 11148-84 Avenue (Garneau United Church) Edmonton, T6G 0V8. Call 474-0753. Weekly Sunday service at 7 p. m.

Liaison Committee, The

In June of 1993, Edmonton Police Service and the Gay and Lesbian community for met a liaison to promote an atmosphere of understanding and mutual respect. For more info, call Edmonton Police Service at 423-4567 or contact the committee at 421-2277

Living Positive

Emotional, spiritual and psychological support is available through Living Positive to all those affected by HIV infection. We offer strong, loving, confidential support. We also meet weekly and share our mutual experiences. Living Positive is entirely directed by and for people who share a common diagnosis of HIV+. Peer counselling, hospital visits and a speakers bureau are also available through our society. Phone 488-5768

Long Yang Club Edmonton Chapter We are an International organization for Gay-Asians and non-Asians. We are the Worlds largest with chapters in 28 cities and 11 countries. Come and Join US! Contact us at longyangclub@edmonton.com or nivek@planet.eon.net by telephone: Call Kevin at 455-2353.

Lutherans Concerned: Edmonton

We are a spiritual community for lesbian, gay, bisexual and straight people. Lutherans Concerned gathers monthly for worship, sharing, and friendship. We offer individual support and a safe space for our own spiritual questions. Call Tim at 482-2294, or write P.O. Box 11095, Edmonton, AB, T5J 3K4 e-mail: luthconc@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Metropolitan Community Church of Edmonton (M.C.C.)

We are a local church within the denomination of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Our major focus is to the defranchised of society. The UFMCC allows anyone to feel a part of the Christian Community and to claim our place in God's Universe. Services are open to all. We worship on Sunday evenings at 7:15 at McDougall United Church - South entrance. Please feel free to join us! Call 429-2321 for more information. E-mail: revbev@compusmart.ab.ca

M.C.C. Youth Group

Provides a safe environment for gay/les/bi/trans youth, to express themselves freely, explore sexuality and to experience god's/goddess' healing and wholeness. How we intend to achieve this goal is through social, recreational, educational and cultural activities. If you have any further questions please E-mail Pam at pamjoce@telusplanet.net. Our phone number is 429-2321

Northern Chaps

Edmonton's Leather - Fetish club for Gay, Lesbian, and straight men and womyn was established six years ago. We strike to educate the rest of the community through workshops, staged demonstrations and events in order to heighten awareness. Northern Chaps meets at Boots & Saddle on the first and third Friday of each month at 9 PM. For information, phone GLCCE at 488-3234. The e-mail address: geoffw@compusmart.ab.ca

Northern Titans

Northern Titans International Bowling League meets every Saturday, at 5:00pm September to April, at Pins & Cues Bowling & Billiards Centre, Southeast corner of Westmount Shopping Centre, 111 Ave. & 135 St. For more information, please call Garry Billet at (403) 426-6311 or Krystal Seitner at (403) 421-1933 ore-mail kseitner@oanet.com

Out and Out (O2)

An Outdoor and Recreation Group for Edmonton's Lesbian Community and their friends. Memberships

\$5.00 per calendar year. Free newsletter published bimonthly and available at local gay hangouts. O2 Hotline is 988-3132 for activity inf., who to contact, how to join etc. Get Involved - Have Fun - Meet New People.

OUTreach

OUTreach is a university-based organization for gays, lesbians and bisexuals interested in an academic atmosphere. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. on campus; main floor of the Athabasca hall. Topics vary from week to week. Additional information is available by calling 988-4166. E-mail: outreach@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca

PFLAG

Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians & Gays. PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Newsletter editor Ellen at 465-3057. Outreach to speak confidentially to a PFLAG volunteer 944-1394, Voice Box 3524 (PFLAG) Mon-Thurs, 7-9:30 p.m. (Recording 24 hrs a day). E-mail: showrsh@compusmart.ab.ca

Team Edmonton

Team Edmonton - Gay Games Association is set up to provide an opportunity for person interested in participating in the Gay Games through fund raising. If you would like to be involved with Team Edmonton, call 482-2789

The Youth Group

"Youth Understanding Youth", meets every Saturday from 8 to 10 pm at the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton, Suite 103, 10612-124 Street. A social support group for anyone under the age of 25 years. For more information or to give your input, phone GLCCE at 488-3234 or email: yuyedm@hotmail.com

Visions

Unitarian Church of Edmonton Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender discussion group. We meet the 4th Wednesday of the month. Call UCE at 454-8073 or Anita at 454-1992. Not necessarily Christian.

Womonspace

The purpose of Womonspace is to foster a positive Lesbian identity among the larger community and ourselves. We hold dances, produce a newsletter and hold other activities. For information phone 482-1794 and visit our Web Page address is - <http://www.gaycanada.com/womonspace/>

Fort McMurray

Freedom - A New Group in Fort McMurray for gay/les/bi individuals and couples meeting once a month from June - Sept and twice a month from Oct - May. Contact Marc at 715- 4237 leave a message during the day or call after 7pm any night

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Internet Site
www.urbancow.com



Destructive Hope

By Kenneth Stewart, Ph.D.

Note: The old song says "Hope, you gotta have hope, miles and miles of hope...."

Hope keeps us going in tough times, maintains us in good times. But are there ever times when it's not helpful, not good for us? I think there are times when hope can be deceptive, when it can keep us in a rotten situation, always waiting for it to get better, always being hopeful, when it's not warranted.

The classic example is the destructive, abusive relationship. The abuse happens, then the making up, then the honeymoon, then the tension, then the abuse again. And we stay, always hoping... "maybe this time she will sober up, maybe this time will really be the last time he hits me, maybe this really will be the last time of unfaithfulness". Part of the process of staying is not of being "in denial" but of holding on to hope too long. Or not holding on strongly enough to the hope for oneself to have a better life. I think it applies in many more situations.

The article reprinted here addresses some of the ways that hope can be destructive as well as helpful and suggests some of the issues we might look at when considering hope in our lives. It is reprinted here with Ken Stewart's permission.

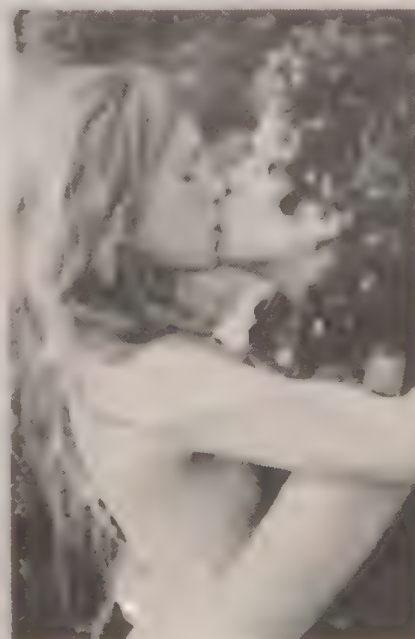
I'm in the profession of hope. Each hour I spend with a client is like an "archeology of hope," if you will, uncovering evidence that things will get better for them, that depression will fade, that fighting will give way to respect, that anxiety will be transformed into tranquility, that inflicts pain instead of easing it. This is what I call "destructive hope."

I've seen destructive hope destroying the lives of battered women when they keep hoping for changes that never show up in their abusive partners. He promises over and over to change his abusive practices of pushing, hitting, slapping, or verbally demeaning her. He promises to stop getting two inches from her face and screaming at her. He promises not to break any more dishes. He promises to be a good father. He may even get out the bible and quote scripture to her. And

within a couple of days or a couple of weeks, he comes back again to intimidate, terrorize and abuse her. Yet she clings to

she tells herself. "He's going through a rough time," she reminds herself. And these observations may carry some truth in them. But her tendency to carry all the emotional responsibility for the relationship needs a rest. Until he assumes full responsibility for his abusive practices, for his will to overpower her, for his sense of destructive entitlement, the relationship will continue in its dizzying cycle of abuse.

I've also seen destructive hope control gentle, non-abusing men who have fervently invested themselves in their relationship with a woman who is "the girl of my dreams." They believe this to be the perfect match, far better than any woman they have known. They date for awhile, a few months, maybe even longer. But at some point she decides she no longer wants to continue the relationship. It's not for her; it doesn't seem like a good fit, she's not ready for commitment, any number of personally felt reasons. She'll say things like, "Let's take a break;" or "I don't think this is working out." Or "I need some time." It's at this point that he starts to fall apart. The story he tells himself is often one of rejection and humiliation - that he must be this despicable character for her to do this. Or



the relationship in the destructive hope that somewhere inside his tyrannical impulses good will win out over evil. She clings to visions of a perfect little house with a picket fence, kids playing in the yard while a loving mother and father benignly oversee this domestic bliss, this safe haven. "He's a good man inside of all that anger,"

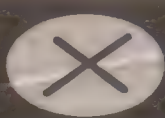
Phair for Ward 4

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Phair



I'm a nice guy!

I'm a nice guy!



Why am I so lonely?

Why am I so lonely?

"Why are all the men I'm interested in married, abusive, live out of town, straight, use drugs, play around, aren't interested..."

Who: Gay men.

What: A chance to work with other gay men in a healing, change-oriented, therapeutic group led by an accredited, experienced therapist;
A chance to heal from abuse (sexual, physical, emotional, verbal) that can overshadow opportunities to experience joy and fulfillment;
A chance to examine the influence of beliefs of what it is to be a man, a gay man; and
A chance to enhance feelings of pride and self-satisfaction.

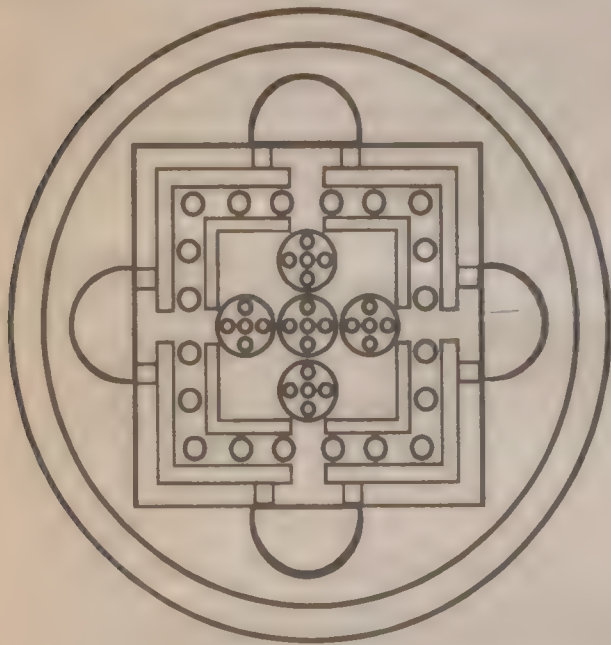
Why: To create change in life and its patterns;
To enhance satisfaction with life;
To diminish the power of experiences and influences that interfere with life now.

Where: Massiah Counselling Services, #203, 10129 - 124 Street
(after September 1 call 415-5434 for information.)

When: Call for dates and times of sessions. Screening interview required.
Two hours a week for 12 weeks.
\$30.00 per week (may be covered by insurance, tax deductible.)

Call 910-3050 for more information

he may tell himself a story that features him as the good guy she is foolishly forsaking in her desire to distance herself



dangers that lie underneath or out of sight (his addiction to power and abuse; her mixed messages and emotional distance).

By minimizing emotionally or physically abusive behavior, destructive hope keeps us from paying attention to the signs that suggest this destructive behavior is part of a continuing pattern. Destructive hope persists because it disguises itself as healing hope. It allows us to maintain our innocence, to cling to the delusion that things will work out, that the other will change, that the context will change. Destructive hope pulls us into a chaotic future, promising us a heaven and dumping us in hell.

from the relationship's intensity. He ends up obsessing about her day and night. He just isn't willing to let go. Instead, he clings desperately to images of connubial bliss from earlier times in the relationship. Ignoring her wishes and his helplessness, he obsesses about approaching her with compelling words and clever strategies to win her back. When these don't work, he retreats, feeling shattered and abandoned.

Healing hope, on the other hand, is the kind of hope that assists healing in sick medical patients and pulls them through life-threatening crises. It's the kind of hope that keeps prisoners of war surviving in cages for years on end. Healing hope makes an otherwise miserable life tolerable and can pull people through months of agonizing suffering. Without the power of healing hope, bodies more quickly give out and spirits wither. This kind of hope, combined with faith and love, provide the foundation of Judeo-Christian beliefs.

While healing hope is desirable and ultimately redeeming, destructive hope eventually wreaks havoc on body and soul. Bodies are battered and bruised, souls are wounded and shrunk. There is no redemption in destructive hope.

It doesn't connect us to love or nature or spiritual dimensions. Instead, it disconnects us from positive feelings about our self-worth and ourselves. It disconnects us from friends who may try in vain to warn us, to steer us away from what we refuse to acknowledge. It disconnects us from the significance of recent memories by creating a tunnel vision that keeps us fixated on the beauty or charm on the surface (his good looks and charm; her beauty and warmth), while minimizing or ignoring the

The inevitabilities of living in an imperfect and mortal world mean that sooner or later each one of us must face necessary losses. Life is full of loss: from the loss of the wonderfully fused relationship we had with our primary caregivers as infants, to the eventual loss of our aging parents we have as adults. Losses do more to mark our passages through life than anything else. They are necessary losses we must face in order to move on, in order to grow and flourish on our own. Life is an endless series of endings and beginnings. These rhythms of birth, life, death and rejuvenation are deeply ingrained in the genes of our bodies and in the bowels of the earth. Every ending is a beginning of something else: a different time, a different place, a different state of mind. We suffer when we cling to endings that we cannot face that we seek to preserve in time. The world revolves and moves on while we remain stuck in the amber of memory. Only by taking the leap of faith that we will survive, that we may even thrive, will we find the courage to let go and begin a new life.

MCC begins New Youth Group

I am the Youth Group Coordinator at MCC. The Goal of the MCC Youth Group is to provide a safe environment for gay/les/bi/trans youth, their friends and youth of g/l/b/t parents to express themselves freely, explore sexuality and to experience god's/goddess' healing and wholeness. How we intend to achieve this goal is through social, recreational, educational and cultural activities. We also intend to have speakers from other religious backgrounds come and share their spiritual beliefs with the group so our youth can make informed decisions about their faith and how it affects their sexuality. We believe that god's love is unconditional and we want our youth to learn the same. If you have any further questions, please E-mail me at pamjoce@telusplanet.net. Our phone number is 429-2321 Pam Willerton

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Speaking Of Normal

Liz Massiah, MSW, RSW
Registered Clinical Social Worker

With thanks and gratitude to Gordon Portman, for his editing expertise and gentleness.

Ask an adolescent her strongest feeling and she will likely shrug and say "boredom"... if she answers at all. Ask a toddler his strongest feeling and he might say 'curiosity...' if he had the vocabulary

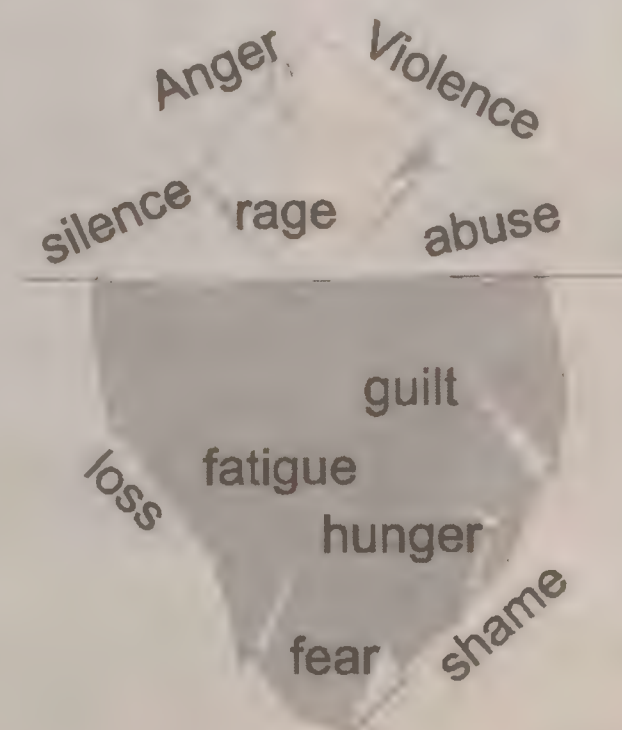
But we don't see courses for "Managing your Boredom" for teens, we see courses and groups on "Anger Management for Adolescent Girls". For grownups, we don't see groups for "Managing your Lonely Self", we see groups on, for example, "Anger Management for Men".

In the Sixties we were all supposed to "let it all hang out", and express our anger freely. These days we have to learn to "manage" it. This emphasis on management suggests that anger has a life of its own, needing to be tamed, or broken like a wild horse, so as not to take over and destroy everything in its path.

In fact some people see anger as a kind of iceberg, with the tip of the iceberg being what we show to the world of our anger through behaviors that are clearly and easily recognized: loud, violent, aggressive actions; critical, snide comment from spouse to spouse, parent to child, child to parent; being "catty" or "bitchy"; outright silence, sometimes lasting for days; or 'blind rages', in which the intense feelings, the emotionally and physiologically felt experience of anger, shut everything else off and leave us in the dark.

Often, however, other feelings lie hidden underneath the surface, like the largest and most dangerous part of

the iceberg - lurking, hiding, treacherous, unknown, powerful. In fact if you draw your iceberg, putting anger above the surface, underneath might be feelings like loss, fear, shame, hunger, fatigue, jealousy, being silenced, loneliness, confusion, guilt...



... and there might also be more choices and options for relating to your anger.

Often in therapy sessions comments such as the following come up: "What is the point of dealing with my anger? It won't change anything." "If I start to express it, I will never be able to stop". "I am too full of guilt when I think of being angry to ever allow that to happen". Couples come

to tense, quiet therapy sessions and say "We never disagree".

On still other occasions, "Anger Management Groups" talk about the use of "Anger Logs" and "time outs", techniques which trick us, in fact, to noticing little more than the obvious, and avoiding what is really lurking in our anger.

In many instances, these comments and management techniques often reflect views of helplessness in the face of anger without recognizing it as the tip of the iceberg it probably is.

But when people start to talk about what's "under the surface", real change often starts to happen.

Choices become clear and available: instead of being angry, one can be tired and irked, or jealous and frightened, lonely, ashamed, guilty...none of which seem to fit with any of the manifestations of anger: outbursts, the need to strike out, to be violent or sarcastic or abusive..... but all of which is a chance to identify to ourselves that there is more going on that what's more easily perceived.

This is not to say that anger is not justified as a way of expressing indignity, fear, rejection, dishonesty, or any of the other feelings that result from, for example, abuse or bad treatment. But if we think that only anger is happening, we might be missing most of what is really there, and what is really hurting us.

Managing "the anger iceberg" takes creativity and a willingness to pay attention to hidden energy: finding ways of noticing the many variations within the iceberg may in fact increase opportunities for deeply experienced, more lasting change.

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Dating: In Search of Your One and Only

By Reverend Charles Bidwell, Ph.D.

Unless you are in a relationship or are a confirmed singularity, you are probably open to meeting someone who could become more than a friend – you are actively searching for a partner. So here are two tools for the hunt. [If you have other strategies, please share them with us, so we can all benefit from your wisdom and experience.]

Let's start with a date. Your first meeting (after responding to the personal ad or after exchanging phone numbers at some event) should be in public, even if it's only for a walk. Going to the home of either of you is for the second date ("Let me show you my den or lair.") because it can be tempting to get physical and that can blur your vision.

Tool #1 - Your Date Rater

Instructions:

1. Go on a date. Take along a reasonable set of insecurities.
 2. After the date, recall what happened and rate each of the following behaviours (with 10 representing the maximum level of element display).
 3. Tally your rating scores and compare them with 130 (a perfect score, but no one's that good).
- [There is also the possibility that, if you want to give serious attention to your next date, you could display some of these behaviours. After all, dating and relationships are two-way encounters and engagements.]

You'll know it's a good (serious) date when there is:

Empathy Quotient: Leans forward while listening to you.
Hypnotic Capability: Maintains eye contact with you, even in the presence of other good-looking people.

Disregard of Personal Advantage: Asks your opinion.

Consideration Quotient: Lets you finish sentences before agreeing or expanding on what you just said.

Suspension of Self-inflation: Listens to your opinions, experiences, relationships, or jobs without comparing them to theirs.

Self-healing Capacity: Avoids discussing last partner, especially in terms suggesting vengeance or personal physical anguish.

Fiscal Probity: Displays evidence of employment and figures appropriate tip in head.

Display Behavior: Fluffs hair; stretches (arching shoulders for chest display); fingers tie, scarf, ring, necklace, clothing.

Tactile Enthusiasm: Touches your arm while talking to you or your shoulder while walking behind you.

Libidinal Restraint: Avoids below-the-waist touching, weird suggestive stories, or anatomical discourses.

Product Reliability: Mentions that they walk, jog, cycle, swim, or have other fitness-related interests.

Civility Imprints: Opens and holds door ahead of you, handles introductions well.

Tolerance for Extended Discomfort: Suggests a future encounter.

So now that you've had your first date and you've given them a score of better than 50, it's time to get more serious. You're both worth the investment of time and it's time to get out your shopping list.

Tool #2 - Your Shopping List

If you don't know where you're going, you'll end up somewhere else. If you don't know what kind of person you're looking for, you'll end up with the first one who gets turned on by you.

Shopper beware! We probably check out a potential roommate more carefully than we do a potential lover. Find out about Potential Lover's past relationships. Talk to their "ex(s)" or close friends. You can sometimes tell something about a person by the friends they keep. Would you like to have them in your home, as your friends?

Assess their spirit, not their body. I know we're first attracted by their body, but face it, every body is going to change for the worse with time (it's called aging and it only improves wine and cheese) so get on to what will last and focus on that.

Interview them.

What seems to be their dominant attitude toward life?

What values do they hold as essential to their happiness?

What do they think are the top essentials in a partnership relationship (what are yours and do they match)?

What would they say their friends would respond, if you asked their friends "What makes Potential Lover a good friend of yours?"

What is Potential Lover proud of; what achievements has PL made? (We all should be proud of something we've done so far in our lives; what are you proud of achieving?)

Make a list of the attributes or characteristics that you want in a Potential Lover. You'll never find one person who will meet them all, but coming "close" counts in this imperfect world. Someone who meets 75% of your list is better than someone who doesn't rate that high. Just how low will you go?

What are the ten top characteristics you require?

Then, what are the ten you'd like, but that are negotiable?

What are the top ten characteristics that you demonstrate (live) and think others appreciate about you (ask a friend or two, if you haven't a clue). Write these all down and be prepared to subject each Potential Lover to that checklist.

Above all, work at being the kind of person you are looking for; be your own "Best Friend". Nothing scares off a potential lover more than encountering someone who feels that they NEED one. God, spare me from needy people as partners. I'm looking for someone who considers himself or herself to be whole, but would like to share their

life (they have a life!) with someone else.

Happy hunting. Make it fun and an adventure. You might as well enjoy yourself on the journey.

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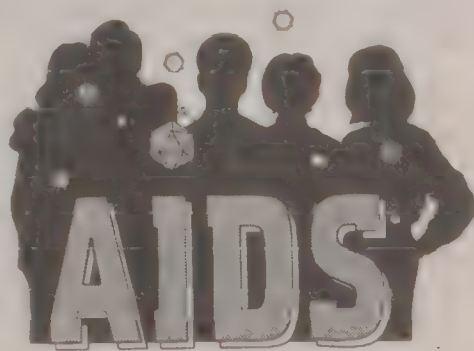
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AIDS Walk

On September 27, approximately 1,400 walkers and 200 volunteers will participate in AIDS Walk Edmonton 1998. While participants will walk and enjoy free food and entertainment, the principle fundraiser for Edmonton's AIDS service organizations also provides people from all walks of life with the opportunity to show their support for individuals affected by HIV and AIDS.

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community,
an essential

event. Some of the education and support programs funded by the event include: a resource centre, which offers a wide range of educational books, videos and pamphlets; Speaker's Bureau, which provides educational and awareness-raising presentations to schools, businesses and other community organizations; and support services for HIV+ clients and their families. In addition to providing services to the greater Edmonton area, the four agencies are developing a variety of outreach programs to rural Alberta communities with limited access to AIDS service organizations.

This year, there are four AIDS service organizations the Walk: AIDS Network of Society; Edmonton Persons HIV Society; Living Positive; Association on AIDS; and Hope Aboriginal AIDS Society. Each of these offers distinct but complimentary services to the and all agree that the Walk is awareness and fundraising

Each year, the corporate community generously supports AIDS Walk Edmonton by providing cash and in-kind sponsorship. This year, major corporate support from Abbott Laboratories Limited, the Royal Bank of Canada and Hoffmann-La Roche Limited will help cover the administrative costs of coordinating the fundraiser. In addition, a wide range of prize incentives have been donated by the corporate community in order to encourage participants to collect pledges and do their part to ensure AIDS Walk Edmonton meets its revenue goal for 1998. Everyone can help support AIDS Walk Edmonton and those who benefit by registering today.

Please call the Walk Office at 488-5742 to make a donation, volunteer or register.

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News From GLCCE



GLCCE by Fred Dicker

In the last issue of Times.10, the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton announced some big changes. One change that we announced was our new office hours starting September 9. From 9:00 am until Noon, Monday through Friday, the Centre will be staffed to better provide services to everyone. Our long-term goal is to have a paid staff person in our office. For now, I will be that staff person as a volunteer and I will be working to separate my volunteer activities from my home to our office at the Centre.

The other change was that we were planning to move the Centre to a bigger and better suite in the same building. There has been a change. We are not moving. However, in the next month or two, we will have a large meeting room just upstairs in addition to our current space for better service to our community. We will also building a number of large lockers. These lockers will be available to community groups so their "stuff" and office records etc can be stored in a locked cabinet at the Centre to provide better access for those who need it. Access to our computer and office facilities will also be possible.

Help: We need your help. If you believe in the importance of the Centre and our growth, please do support us by becoming a member, or volunteering your time, or participating in our Centre Renter program by donating a small amount of money monthly to help with our expenses.

Peer Counselling: The Community Centre offers a program of free peer counselling. Our counsellors have been trained by our own training course. Our counselling service is free and can be accessed either by dropping into the Centre or by telephone without appointments. Anyone who wants to talk about issues or gain information about our community is welcome.

Youth Group: "Youth Understanding Youth" is proud to announce their new name. Most participants are aged 15 to 18. This group is also growing and changing and is seeking direction from youth, not adults, so it can better meet the needs of the youth of Edmonton. For more information call the Centre or email: yuyedm@hotmail.com

Support Groups:

The Centre in co-operation with the Gay Men's Outreach Crew, offer a number of free educational and support workshops that have the format of a facilitated discussion groups for both men and women. Also, Sundays from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Centre, there is an ongoing facilitated discussion evening for men to drop-in whenever you can. These evening are being well attended. Contact the Centre or GMOC at 944-1394 ext. 4662 for more information..

24 hour Information line:

The Centre is now offering a telephone

recorded message service with the phone number of 482- 2855. When you call, you will need to enter codes provided by the menus to access various information as you wish. This will be information about community groups and businesses. The community calendar portion will list upcoming events in our community and will be updated frequently. Please do keep us informed by phoning 488-3234 whenever the system is not working for you.

Internet Webpage:

Our web page is continuing to grow with more information and links. We are now updating the web page at least once a week. A major part of the page is the

community calendar, and it has to be current to be of any use. To help the Centre with our page we need everyone who is planning any events to contact us so we can put it on the page for everyone to see. How to contact the Centre: The Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton is open for drop-in and phone service and counselling from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday except holidays. Location address is Suite 103, 10612-124 street. Telephone number is 488-3234 and messages are returned whenever possible. 24 hour Information line is 482-2855 Mailing Address is Box 1852, Main Post Office, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2P2 Email address is - glcce@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca Web Page address is - www.freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/~glcce

BOWLING IS FUN

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Hotel Soap

(My favorite!)

What To Do With All Those "Free" Soaps When Traveling

(This is a TRUE story as printed in The Times (London))

Dear Maid, Please do not leave any more of those little bars of soap in my bathroom since I have brought my own bath-sized Dial. Please remove the six unopened little bars from the shelf under the medicine chest and another three in the shower soap dish. They are in my way. Thank you,

S. Berman

Dear Room 238, I am not your regular maid. She will be back tomorrow, Thursday, from her day off. I took the 3 hotel soaps out of the shower soap dish as you requested. The 6 bars on your shelf I took out of your way and put on top of your Kleenex dispenser in case you should change your mind. This leaves only the 3 bars I left today which my instructions from the management is to leave 3 soaps daily. I hope this is satisfactory. Kathy, Relief Maid

Dear Maid — I hope you are my regular maid. Apparently Kathy did not tell you about my note to her concerning the little bars of soap. When I got back to my room this evening I found you had added 3 little Camays to the shelf under my medicine cabinet. I am going to be here in the hotel for two weeks and have brought my own bath-size Dial so I won't need those 6 little Camays which are on the shelf. They are in my way when shaving, brushing teeth, etc.

Please remove them. S. Berman

Dear Mr. Berman, My day off was last Wed. so the relief maid left 3 hotel soaps which we are instructed by the management. I took the 6 soaps which were in your way on the shelf and put them in the soap dish where your Dial was. I put the Dial in the medicine cabinet for your convenience. I didn't remove the 3 complimentary soaps which are always placed inside the medicine cabinet for all new check-ins and which you did not object to when you checked in last Monday. Please let me know if I can of further assistance. Your regular maid, Dotty

Dear Mr. Berman, The assistant manager, Mr. Kensedder, informed me this A.M. that you called him last evening and said you were unhappy with your maid service. I have assigned a new girl to your room. I hope you will accept my apologies for any past inconvenience. If you have any future complaints please contact me so I can give it my personal attention. Call extension 1108 between 8AM and 5PM. Thank you. Elaine Carmen Housekeeper

Dear Miss Carmen, It is impossible to contact you by phone since I leave the hotel for business at 745 AM and don't get back before 530 or 6PM. That's the reason I called Mr. Kensedder last night. You were already off duty. I only asked Mr. Kensedder if he could do anything about those little bars of soap. The new maid you assigned me must have thought I was a new check-in today, since she left another 3 bars of hotel soap in my medicine cabinet along with her regular delivery of 3 bars on the bath-room shelf. In just 5 days here I have accumulated 24 little bars of soap. Why are you doing this to me?

S. Berman

Dear Mr. Berman, Your maid, Kathy, has been instructed to stop delivering soap to your room and remove the extra soaps. If I can be of further assistance, please call extension 1108 between 8AM and 5PM. Thank you, Elaine Carmen, Housekeeper

Dear Mr. Kensedder, My bath-size Dial is missing. Every bar of soap was taken from my room including my own bath-size Dial. I came in late last night and had to call the bellhop to bring me 4 little Cashmere Bouquets.

S. Berman

Dear Mr. Berman, I have informed our housekeeper, Elaine Carmen, of your soap problem. I cannot understand why there was no soap in your room since our maids are instructed to leave 3 bars of soap each time they service a room. The situation will be rectified immediately. Please accept my apologies for the inconvenience Martin L. Kensedder Assistant Manager

Dear Mrs. Carmen, Who the hell left 54 little bars of Camay in my room? I came in last night and found 54 little bars of soap. I don't want 54 little bars of Camay. I want my one damn bar of bath-size Dial. Do you realize I have 54 bars of soap in here. All I want is my bath size Dial. Please give me back my bath-size Dial.

S. Berman

Dear Mr. Berman, You complained of too much soap in your room so I had them removed. Then you complained to Mr. Kensedder that all your soap was missing so I personally returned them. The 24 Camays which had been taken and the 3 Camays you are supposed to receive daily (sic). I don't know anything about the 4 Cashmere Bouquets. Obviously your maid, Kathy, did not know I had returned your soaps so she also brought 24 Camays plus the 3 daily Camays. I don't know where you got the idea this hotel issues bath-size Dial. I was able to locate some bath-size Ivory which I left in your room. Elaine Carmen Housekeeper

Dear Mrs. Carmen, Just a short note to bring you up-to-date on my latest soap inventory. As of today I possess:

- On shelf under medicine cabinet - 18 Camay in 4 stacks of 4 and 1 stack of 2.
- On Kleenex dispenser - 11 Camay in 2 stacks of 4 and 1 stack of 3.
- On bedroom dresser - 1 stack of 3 Cashmere Bouquet, 1 stack of 4 hotel-size Ivory, and 8 Camay in 2 stacks of 4.
- Inside medicine cabinet - 14 Camay in 3 stacks of 4 and 1 stack of 2.
- In shower soap dish - 6 Camay, very moist.
- On northeast corner of tub - 1 Cashmere Bouquet slightly used.
- On northwest corner of tub - 6 Camays in 2 stacks of 3.

Please ask Kathy when she services my room to make sure the stacks are neatly piled and dusted. Also, please advise her that stacks of more than 4 have a tendency to tip. May I suggest that my bedroom window sill is not in use and will make an excellent spot for future soap deliveries. One more item, I have purchased another bar of bath-sized Dial which I am keeping in the hotel vault in order to avoid further misunderstandings.

S. Berman

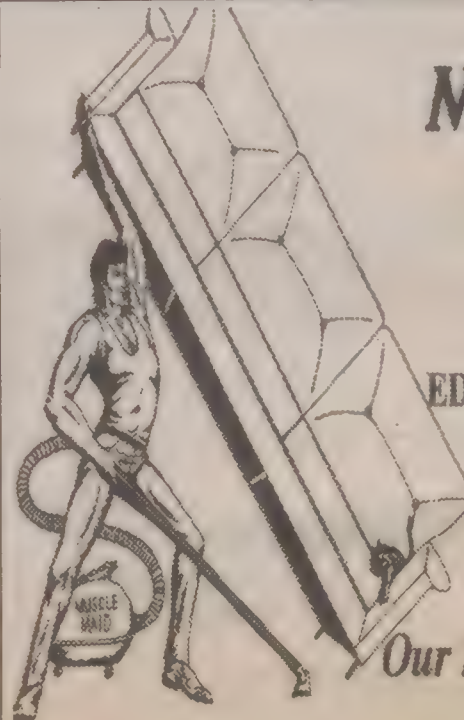
From One of our Friends at "Just 4 Laughs" (who knew we working late on this issue...we do have a sense of humour!) ... hugs :) dc

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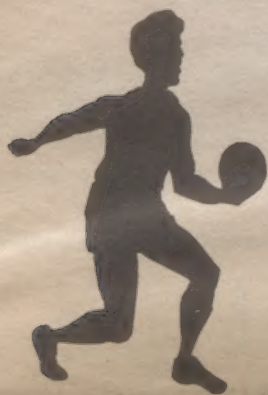
Great food, friendly prices.



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New volleyball season coming soon!

The Free-to-Be Volleyball Association (FTB) is getting ready for another exciting season. Everyone is welcome to play! We will be coordinating two main leagues this year and plan on hosting a fun tournament for Dec. 5 or 6, 1998. Look for more details in the next issue of Times .10.



Members from FTB went to Vancouver to play in the Queen Vicki and Prince Albert tournament on July 25 and 26.

Hung Like Fish played in the "C" division of the Prince Albert Cup and had tons of fun. Although we came in last on the court, we came in first off the court with one of our members winning the "I don't care about the competition, I'm just here to get laid!" award. A special thanks from Hung Like Fish to Gordon of Vancouver who filled our ranks after one of our team members couldn't make it due to a nasty flu! Kitchen Sync, a team made up of Vancouver boys and Edmonton boys played in the "B" division of the Queen Vicki Cup and did well with a sixth place finish.

Recreation League

The 1998/1999 season kicks off on Monday, September 28, 1998 from 6 to 8 p.m. at St. Edmund School (11712 130 Ave). Keep your Mondays free until December 14, 1998 inclusively. As suggested, St. Edmund is a larger gym than Grandin. The focus is on game play although coaching on basic skills may be provided upon request. Attendance is on a drop-in basis. Please contact Rick at 497-7585 before coming out for the season kick off to ensure that last minute changes have not occurred.

Competitive League

The 1998/1999 season kicks off the week of October 11, 1998. Gym time and location is to be confirmed. Join other players who enjoy intense but fun volleyball for ongoing personal skill development. Previous experience is necessary. Advanced recreational players are encouraged to join. Please contact Geoff at 420-6698 for further information.

Tournaments

We're gearing up for three tournaments this year: Edmonton on Dec. 5-6, 1998 (B and C-recreation level players), The Apollo Cup in Calgary on April 2-4, 1999 and The Queen Vicki Cup in Vancouver on July 30 to August 2, 1999. The Edmonton tournament will be designed for team players from across Alberta. This is a small tournament with team or

individual entries based on available space. Please contact Andrew at 435-9379 for further information.

Beach League

There was a fantastic turnout this year and the season rap up party provided a pleasant close to the season. Thanks to the Beach League members. See you next summer. Please contact Rick at 497-7585 to provide input on the 1999 season.

ULTIMATE ADVENTURES

Houseboat Holiday - \$650 all inclusive departs September 20, includes transportation and 4 nights on board (Shuswap Lake, B.C.)

Gay in Vegas - Departs October 29 returning November 1, Air Fare, Ground Transportation, Accomodations, Evening Beer Busts. Gay Escort. \$699/person.

Laguna Beach/West Hollywood - November Departures Try the best Southern California has to offer. Sun, Surf, and Suds. Air, Ground Transportation, Hotel, Beach Activities, Beer Busts, Gay Escort. \$799/person

Call 414-0537 for bookings and information.

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CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS TRICKS AND TREATS:

SEX WORKERS WRITE ABOUT THEIR CLIENTS

Matt Bernstein Sycamore is now accepting submissions for *Tricks and Treats: Sex Workers Write About Their Clients*, a non-fiction anthology to be published by Haworth Press in 1999. This ground-breaking anthology will consist entirely of writing by sex workers. Obviously, the sensationalized, glamourized, and pathologized descriptions of sex workers that we see in the media do not accurately reflect our lives. This anthology will shift the gaze; instead of outsiders peering in at sex workers, sex workers will scrutinize the outside. That's right— it will be us writing about them.

I am looking for well-crafted non-fiction that takes sex work as a given, and looks outward at tricks, the sex industry, and society as a whole. I am especially interested in stories that utilize sex work as a vantage point from which to view other issues, such as class, race, power, HIV/AIDS, gender, sexual abuse, community, desire, fantasy, intimacy, leisure, and transformation. Writing that is innovative both in terms of content and style. Writing that is direct and honest, exciting and raw.

I would like to include writing from the perspectives of as diverse a group of sex workers as possible: street hustlers, escorts, strippers, porn actors, phone sex operators, masseurs, models... Stories by male, female, and transgendered sex workers from different backgrounds in terms of race, class, gender, education, origin, ethnicity, sexuality...

I am interested in writing that throws the reader off-guard, writing that reveals layers of meaning before the reader has a chance to step back. Writing that addresses the crazy, intense, bizarre, boring, scary, amazing, experiences that sex workers have in everyday life. I encourage contributors to think of the categories of "sex work" and "trick" in the broadest possible manner. This is your chance to put your tricks under a microscope, so don't spare anything. And have fun.

GUIDELINES

*Writers may submit up to three non-fiction works for consideration. Each submission may be up to 5,000 words in length. Simultaneous submissions will be considered, but writers should notify the editor if the work is accepted elsewhere. Writers will be paid if their work is accepted for publication.

*Please include the following:

- A cover letter and a brief bio.
- A self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) for correspondence, or a self-addressed envelope with International Reply Coupon (IRC), if you are submitting from outside the U.S.
- A self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage for return of your manuscript.

*Please send only typed, double-spaced submissions. No email submissions, please.

*Please send all submissions to the following address:

TRICKS AND TREATS,
c/o MATT BERNSTEIN SYCAMORE,
P.O. BOX 402024,
BROOKLYN, NY 11240-2024

*You may send queries by email, but send submissions by mail only.

Email address is: tricksandtreats@hotmail.com.

*I am seeking the widest variety of submissions possible, so feel free

to share this call with any sex worker who tells incredible stories.
DEADLINE IS OCTOBER, 1998.

Good luck.

Holographic Face

You think you are so young,
but I know that you are hiding
behind the holographic image you portray.

You do not see me
and my ways
of loving you.

My holographic image knows love
is more than flesh
and fantasy.

You may come out anytime now,
and let yourself be known,
Once your mind has seen itself
and understands itself.

See into your heart and go past
the image that you cast for others to see,
It is okay now to let yourself be known
and go beyond believing what you see.

Your image is simply a thought
floating in space,
Between your ears lie the colours of
your face.

Time to go now
and look again at your holographic face.
Lovely to see you again my friend,
and remember the times before this place.

d. a. lawrence

The Duncan B.C. Gay, Lesbian And Bi-Sexual Community

Several years ago our Member of Parliament is reported to have said that he knew of no gay people living in the Cowichan Valley. Of course, we knew he was incorrect. There are many people of our orientation living here. Why, however, was he able to come to this erroneous conclusion? The fact is that we're not that different from our non-gay neighbors. We are homeowners, we have friends, we care about our community and country, we want to be loved and respected, just like everyone else. We are plumbers, janitors, retirees, teachers, backers, business owners, clerks, clergy, loggers, cooks...

Being an "invisible" minority has its benefits. If there are people who feel they have a reason for not liking us or wanting us around, we can continue to live in relative peace. However, the price for invisibility is often a deep sense of isolation and low self-esteem. Getting the feeling that some people consider us abnormal, deviant, and that some people, in fact, hate us and would seek to do us harm, leaves many of us feeling alone, misunderstood and even afraid.

This is one of the reasons why the Gay, Lesbian and Bi-sexual Group has been formed here in Duncan. It is a way to meet other people who understand how we feel. It is a way to make friends.

We have regular meetings, business and socials, and welcome you to call David @ 250-748-6461 or Carolyn @ 250-743-2398. Leave a message if you choose... or wait until one of our members is available to speak to you.

MALE STRIPPER



BOOTS

10242-106 ST 423-5014

EVERY SATURDAY, 11PM

FREEDOM

A New Group in Fort McMurray

A group for gay/les/bi individuals and couples meeting once a month from June - Sept and twice a month from Oct - May. Purpose:

1: To provide gays, lesbians and bisexual individuals of the Fort McMurray and surrounding area with a safe and discreet environment to meet and socialize.

2: To provide an atmosphere for dialogue and discussion on pertinent topics and issues within our community.

3: To provide a network of professionals who are gay friendly offering their services in a safe and friendly environment.

4: To provide spiritual support for those seeking spiritual growth in or out of any organized religious group.

5: To aid and support those who wish to come out; as well to assist those in the closet with the struggles they face in a closeted environment.

Contact Marc at 715- 4237 leave a message during the day or call after 7 p.m. any night to speak directly.

Business & Service Directory

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P.O. Box 515 Edmonton, Ab. T5J-2K1

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in
a
bar -

Voted
Edmontons
Best
DANCE
Club -

and be
OPENLY
gay
or

lesbian? -

When you're
ready to
Come OUT

109
Disco

Thursday
Male Stripper

Times .10 Publications Society
Presents Your Community
and

The No Name Fundraiser Part IV

Saturday, October 17th

The Following Venues are Participating

Boots

with Colt Model Wade Neff

Jazzberry's Too

with Yvette & more

Rebar

Tossing Melons & Kissing Johnny Rebar?

109 Discotheque

EVM Sings!

Toots & a Cast of Millions

(well maybe a few friends)

(Door Charges Apply at all Venues)

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